# THE OL' HACKERS NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OL'HACKERS

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

NOV/DEC 1989
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11 - 13

# WHO'S WHO ?

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VICE-PRESIDENT.............................Alex Pignato

SECRETARY..................................Allen Atkins

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President's Message -

Oct/Nov 1989

Fellow Atarians,

Several months have passed since the regional meeting was held in New Jersey with Mr. Bob Brodie, the newest user group coordinator from Atari Corp. While the meeting shed light on many topics and new doors were opened by Mr. Brodie, we have yet to see or hear anything new from Atari. Granted, the area recently suffered a very devastating earthquake and while I'm not about to detracted from the many tragedies as a result of that quake, I'm left wondering what purpose the regional meeting served. Bear in mind, this is a personal thought and a real concern as we get ready for another Christmas of electronic gadgets and toys. I guess what I'm really trying to saying is, will Atari offer anything new for the almost abandoned low-end computer market in the form of hardware or software. Or for that matter, will any software producers or hardware manufacturers surprise us this year. Yes, I do realize there are several small software houses out there churning out some new titles, but it sure ain't like it used to be!

At our last monthly meeting I asked the members if they were individually looking for some piece of software to something for which they had a specifis need. but didn't have in their library at home. Several asked for a data bases to do some special sorting techniques. some asked for a game or two, some were seeking a utility to do something unique to the innards of their computer. and some said they had everything they needed and maybe would like to see an update or modification to an oldie. but goodie. Then a light lite up in my head and I realized how I could offer everyone what they were seeking: the OL' Hackers Atari Users Group. Yep, that was the answer to all their problems!

O.H.A.U.G. has all the resources any Atarian could want: answers to technical questions, demonstrations of current or almost forgotten software, access to an ever growing library of disks from all over the world, door prizes, coffee and cake, bull sessions, fun, and help with any problems related to Atari hardware or software. What more could you ask for.

Don't forget our second annual Christmas/Chanukah get-together at Tiffany's Restaurant on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30PM. We're planning some great door prizes and ***lots*** of good cheer with your fellow club members and their spouses or friends.

I offer my best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving Day and for a healthy and joyous Christmas/Chanukah holiday.

Atarily yours,

Al Beitchman

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1989 MEETING

GENERAL MEETING:

Again, our premier "Designated Hitter", ALEX PIGNATO was rushed into service because of a last minute call from our Club President AL BEITCHMAN. ALEX quickly put together a winning agenda to make the monthly meeting both fun and enjoyable.

PICNIC AND DINNER:

One final try at the OL' HACKER's 2nd ANNUAL Club picnic will be made SEPTEMBER 24th at BETHPAGE STATE PARK, 12 noon (no rain date this time). Maybe we will be lucky, this late in the season, the picnic trees should be decorated with beautiful fall colors from the many surrounding trees.

Next subject for discussion was the second annual OL' HACKER's dinner. The first week in DECEMBER at the TIFFANY RESTAURANT was again selected. The exact day and date will be determined at a future meeting. It is expected that HORST DE WITZ will once again be dinner chairman.

POTPOURRI:

Much of the talk before the formal meeting was centered on the J.A.C.G. REGIONAL ATARI meeting. Those members that went were eager to tell the non-travelers what a wonderful day they had experienced. The flea market, the meeting with other ATARIANS, listening to the J.A.C.G. officers speak, then hearing from five other ATARI CLUB officers. Then finally, BOB BRODIE, a former USER GROUP member, SYSOP, club PRESIDENT, and now the ATARI CORPORATION USER GROUP COORDINATOR. BOB told those present of some new items at the ATARI CORP, and then held a question and answer session. When it all ended at a luncheon the OL' HACKER'S present were impressed with BOB'S sincerity, enthusiasm, and knowledge. We believe he will be dedicated to both the ATARI CORP. and USER GROUPS through out the county. ALEX advised us that he had written BOB BRODIE a letter of congratulations in his new position as ATARI USER GROUP COORDINATOR on behalf of all the OL' HACKERS.

As a follow up, the President of the LEHIGH VALLEY club is working toward setting up a meeting of the officers of all the clubs for mid-November, to formulate plans for future REGIONAL meets with all clubs participating.

According to ALEX he found a "BEST BUY" when he purchased a "BIS-KEY". DIS-KEY is a plastic key that is inserted into your disk drive to prevent your writing on that floppy disk by accident. ALEX said it has saved him numerous times from destroying a program in error. BIS-KEY can be secured from CRO RESEARCH, 100 Meadow Ct. P.O. Box 129, LYONS, COLORADO 80540, Tel: 303-823-5088.

In a letter to CARLOS HURTADO, PAUL TODD, new OL' HACKER member stated his VULCAN SOFTWARE COMPANY will have a new PUBLIC DOMAIN CATALOG in the fall.

Answering a letter written by ALEX, SIERRA SOFTWARE, COARSEGOLD,

CALIFORNIA said that outlet stores like EGGHEAD, ELECTRONIC BOUTIQUE, and BABBAGES do not stock 8-bit software and therefore, SIERRA **SOFTWARE,** having no 8 BIT outlet, will only support 16-bit computers. THANKS FOR NOTHING!

Thanks to HARRY the members enjoyed plenty of coffee and cake during the meeting breaks, a most enjoyable **1/2** hour!

MINUTES:

HARRY TUTHILL made a motion that the AUGUST minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter, and without corrections. This motion was seconded by JACK GEDALIUS, and carried.

DOOR PRIZES:

| | |
|---|---|
| ANTIC JUNE 89 **w/mag** | HARRY TUTHILL |
| ANTIC JUNE 87 **w/mag** | STAN SCHENFELD |
| BIT BYTER **#16** | MATT BENNETT |
| BIT BYTER #17 | ALAN **SHARKIS** |

Once again HARRY won a monthly door prize. So what's unusual about that? Normally HARRY selects **#10** on the sign in log, this month when he came in, he hrd to settle for the only open slot, #6. When the wheel stopped spinning for the FIRST DOOR PRIZE, up popped #6. (way to go HARRY)

DEMONSTRATIONS:

JACK led off with a surprisingly good program that very few members knew of, **"CHEMLAB".** This program has the user working in a chemistry laboratory and must find a chemistry solution for a critical situation. Sounded like a fun way to learn chemistry as you are required to mix a preventive solutions. Fail the assiqned task, and poof, an explosion will occur.

Next, Alex went to work, **first** with PAGE **6** Library disk **#40-6,** with viewer. Using this program you can view multi PRINT SHOP icons on the screen, an easy method to select a needed icon. Then using "PRINT SHOP COMPANION", ALEX was now able to customize an icon. To demonstrate this point he had brought many personalized icons.

Then came game time, "POTLUCK", a monopoly board type game, then **"DOGGIES",** a greyhound dog race, "LOST CITY", a interactive game, **"HACKER.BAS",** a spoof on breaking into I.B.M. etc. "BOWLING" and finally "SUBATACK". All members present had a go at establishing a new hi-score. ALEX easily beat any number put up on the board. **If** you think you know the reason why, choose one of the following: (an unformatable disk to the winner!)

a. **It** was his program
b. He practiced at home before the meeting
c. He is an old NAVY **dog**
d. He is older than most members
e. All of the above

Oh, by the way JOSEF LEBER received honorable mention.

FUTURE MEETING **DATES:**

Future meeting dates for the OL' HACKERS are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OCTOBER | 21,1989 | (NOTE: next meeting date change) | |
| NOVEMBER | 25,1989 | MARCH | 10,1990 |
| DECEMBER | 9,1989 | APRIL | 14,1990 |
| JANUARY | 13,1990 | MAY | 12,1990 |
| FEBRUARY | 10,1990 | JUNE | 2,1990 |

A11 dates are SATURDAY and are scheduled for **11:30am** at the **PLAINVIEW/OLD BETHPAGE** LIBRARY.

Remember........ the next **OL'** HACKER ATARI USER GROUP meeting is scheduled for OCTOBER **21th,** at **11:30am.**

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1989 MEETING

GENERAL MEETING:

HORST DEWITZ our qood will ambassdor is about to take off again. This time as a member of the BIT-BYTERS ATARI USERS GROUP he will attend their annual meeting in FRANKFORT, GERMANY. HORST is presently BIT-BYTERS U.S.A. representative and **is collecting** club information from USER GROUPS around the country, for them. He is also contacting software distributors of PUBLIC DOMAIN PROGRAMS. HORST wanted a review of the J.A.C.G. SEPTEMBER multi user group meeting, so that he could report to THE BIT BYTER CLUB. The BIT-BYTERS USERS **GROUP,** 420 strong, eagerly look forward to their **big** convention meeting, which is held once a year. The well has dried up in EUROPE for **130XE** and **800XL** computers, as they are offered in package deals only. The BIT-BYTERS are equipped to now perform their own hardware repair service. Wish we could say the same.

One group that HORST has been in touch with is "SOFTWARE INFINITY" located at STATE COLLEGE, PA. The "NITTANY ATARI PERSONAL COMPUTER" organization has amassed a PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY of 140 floppy disks. We will be sending our catalog of 135 disks also. More and more USER GROUPS are the only "KEY" for future existance of the **8** BIT. We must all cooperate, in order to get the most from our computers.

HELP WANTED:
For what you may ask? The **OL'** HACKERS need a new **"EDITOR"** for our "NEWSLETTR" come JANUARY 1990. CARLOS **HURTADO** can not continue as editor next year. Have we any volunteers out there who would like to try their hand as "EDITOR-IN-CHIEF" of a bimonthly publication? The club needs help to carry on this **job** as **it** is an invaluable tool, which has opened many a door for us. CO-EDITOR ALEX PIGNATO, agreed to continue helping to put out **our** newsletter. but he cannot do the whole **job!** THIS IS A VITAL PART OF OL' HACKERS, please come forward, even to offer your assistance **if** you do not want to be the EDITOR!

MEMBERSHIP BADGES:
AL **BEITCHMAN** asked the members to design an identification badge for the OL' HACKERS. In fact AL made a contest of **it.** Now is the time for the members to put on their thinking caps and use their creative abilities, and win a prize at the same time!

ANNUAL DINNER:

HORST, the dinner chairman (again), announced that this year's annual CHRISTMAS DINNER will once more be at TIFFANY'S in BELLMORE on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th. You still have plenty of time to signup for a great night out with your ATARI friends and their ladies. A11 who attended last year felt it was a real fun thing, and they enjoyed it immensely! Tell HORST at the Nov. 11th meeting that you are coming!

DOOR PRIZES:

The method of draw was changed from a computer program to theatre type tickets for this meeting. Everyone in the room knew what was coming, yes, HARRY TUTHILL'S number was the first one drawn.

| PRIZE | MEMBER |
|---|---|
| LIBRARY DISK #59 (FAIRWAY,LAZY LOAD) | HARRY TUTHILL |
| SOLITAIRE | JACK GEDADIUS |
| TO be announced | JOE LEBER |
| To be announced | STAN SCHENFELD |

COMPUTER SHOW:

On OCTOBER 22, the ROYCE CARLIN HOTEL, in MELVILLE will conduct a KEN GORDON COMPUTER SHOW. OL' HACKER members have found out from past experience that there will not be any ATARTI 8 BIT hardware or software at the exhibit. AL BEITCHMAN, ALAN SHARKIS, are two who are going.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Future meeting dates for the OL' HACKERS are:

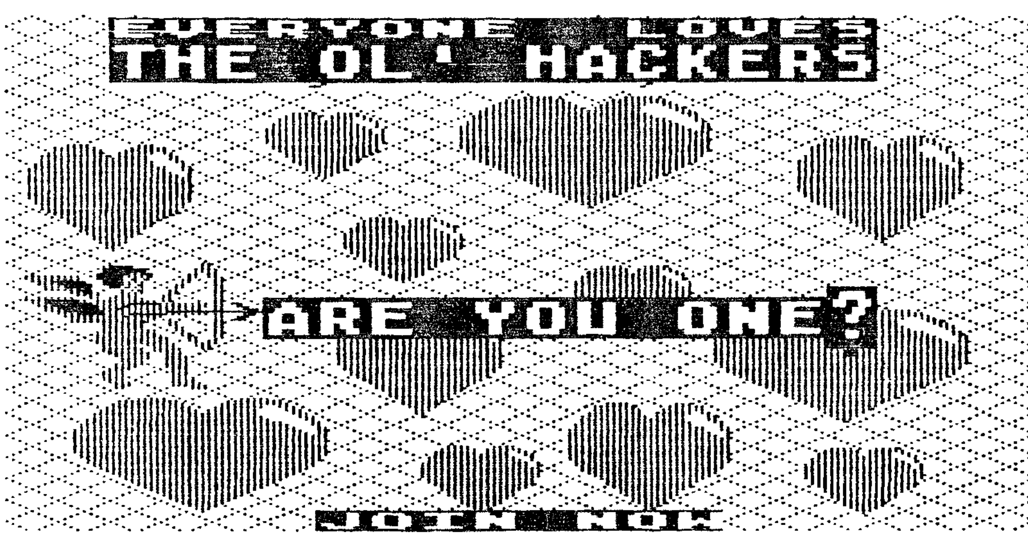
| | |
|---|---|
| NOVEMBER 11, 1989 | MARCH 10, 1990 |
| DECEMBER 9, 1989 | APRIL 14, 1990 |
| JANUARY 13, 1990 | MAY 12, 1990 |
| FEBRUARY 10, 1990 | JUNE 2, 1990 |

All dates are a SATURDAY and are scheduled for 11:30am,at the PLAINIEW/OLD BETHPAGE LIBARY.

Remember........ the next OL' HACKERS ATARI USER GROUP meeting is scheduled for NOVEMBER 11, 1989, at 11:30am. THIS IS A DATE CHANGE, PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT.

Sincerely,

AL ATKINS



# ME AND MY H.D. !
by
ALEX PIGNATO

When I started with my TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A, so I could play a few video games at home, back in 1980, little did I realize how addictive COMPUTERS can be. My wife was always very happy that she was not a GOLF WIDOW in the past, so now she FINDS HERSELF a COMPUTER WIDOW, only difference is that I am in the house, huddled over my ATARI 8 BIT....."No I can't do that now, I'm in the middle of something very important, I'll do it LATER",say I, in response to her call. After all it's very important to figure out how to have the program do what I want it to do, isn't it? Doesn't that have priority? I keep telling her that at least I'm not at a BAR getting soused. See, there is always a GOOD explaination for your love affair with your computer.

In any event, I wanted to tell you how I ended up with a H.D. (If you havent figured out what my H.D. is by now, just sit tight, and you will find out.) After much research, done by talking to a COMPUTER repairman, who showed me 12 COMMODORES requiring repairs, as opposed to 2 ATARI's, my mind was made up, and I purchased an 800XL. I won't go into the history of how I got involved with being a founder of THE OL' HACKERS ATRRI USERS GROUP, Inc., thats another story in itself, suffice it to say, that I was exposed to the idea that a club MEMBER with some prior experience in upgrading his own 800's, agreed to put in chips to upgrade from 64K to 256K. Hey, it worked. This is great. Look at all the power my little ATARI has, and so for a long time I was content with my setup.

When you belong to any USERS GROUP, the normal side effect is the exposure to new and better things, such as software, hardware, etc, which comes with along with big portions of NEWFOUND FRIENDS. So, next I hear about the MIO BOARD from ICD. Boy, would I like to have one, but I hate to upgrade without knowledge of how to use it. Then one day, a MEMBER who needed $ offered to sell me a 1 Meg. $400.00 MIO BOARD at a bargain. How could I resist? Now all I had to do was learn SPARTA DOS.. ... Well, that keeps me busy, (I'm stll learning) and I soon discovered how nice it is to have a 1 Meq RAMDISK!

I never thought I would fillit, but how quickly I found out wrong I was. This was the state of affairs until a MEMBER who needed an IBM clone for his work, offered to sell me his 20 Meg H.D. (NOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY H.D. IS? THATS RIGHT, A HARD DRIVE!) Wow, another chance to upgrade, says I. So he comes over and installs an IBM case, HARD DRIVE, CONTROLLER CARD, and POWER for same. Suddenly I no longer have a little 64K ATARI, I got myself an ATARI IBM! Thats what I call my set up. But wait, I'm not finished, after all the above did take 5 years to put together, but there is more to come.

A couple of old ATARI friends SAM CORY and BOB MULHEARN from JERSEY ATARI COMPUTER CLUB, across the river called to ask me if I wanted a used 10 Meg HARD DRIVE for 925.00, with the understanding that I will have to take the risk in that, it may be defective, although BOB had bought 5 of them for his club, and only one was not perfect. Oh, what the ----, say I, I'll buy it. Soon BOB called and said he bought the unit, tested it, and it is in MINT condition and working perfectly. Now I'm waiting for my dear MEMBER friend KEVIN BLAES to come over to install it correctly. I think that for the next 10 years I'll have room enough for anything, and besides, my ATARI at home is now MORE POWERFUL than my office IBM. GAME MACHINE, INDEED! No way, Its a roaring LION of a computer. TAKE THAT BIG BLUE!

Notice that all of this would never have come about if it weren't for my being a part of a USERS GROUP, so the MORAL to the STORY is, JOIN A USERS GROUP, BE INVOLVED, and HAVE FUN! Notice **how often ATARI club members have helped** me!

## SpartaDos Commands!
## Printed from WQNR/QSKY

### THE COPY COMMAND

COPY:
The copy command works like this: you are at the **D1:** Prompt, and lets say you want to Copv a file from one drive to another, this is how its done:

**D1:COPY FILENAME.EXT** D2: **FILENAME.EXT**
**OR**
**D1:COPY FILENAME.EXT** D2:
**OR**
**D1:COPY FILENAME.EXT D1:NEWNAME.**EXT
**OR**
**D1:COPY FILENAME.EXT NEWNAME.**EXT

PLEASE NOTE:
That when you do this, you must have a space after each item exactly as you see in the above example. In SPARTA DOS, there are **many** wavs to copy a file, not like **ATARI DOS 2.5,** where you must use a **","** and no space between the source and the destination. In SPARTA, you can also copy a file on the same disk with a different name but with Sparta Dos, as you can see above, you can also copy **it** to a new filename on the same drive

### THE "LOAD" COMMAND

This **command loads any binary file** into memory and does not run the file. The standard DOS RUN and **INIT** vectors are not used.

Example:

**D1:LOAD MYFILE.OBJ**

This loads a file called **MYFILE.OBJ** into the memory locations specified in its header**(s)** but does not RUN the file.

This commad is useful for loading character **sets,** binary data, **or files** that **should** not be run. Note that **load** can only be done in **a 'D'** device, since load is now an **XIO** function of the **'D'** handler.

### THE "PRINT" COMMAND

To direct the contents of a file. Mostly text files and executing **it.** As follows ---

Example: **#1**

**D1:PRINT MYFILE.TXT** P:

**D1:PRINT MYFILE.TXT** E:

**D1:PRINT MYFILE.TXT** D2:

Also this is an example of how to print your Disk Directory:

Example: **#2**

**D1:PRINT** P:

At this point your printer is now ready to have the file printed **-** Now type in DIR and you see what happens in the Discription below:

**D1:DIR**

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PRINTED OUT

Volume: MY-FILES
Directory: MAIN

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TXP25** | COM | 13488 | 5-08-87 | **11:20p** |
| COMMAND | COM | 4090 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| **FIXUP** | COM | 13365 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| SCOPY | COM | 3582 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| SORTDIR | COM | 1104 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| TDLINE | COM | 1376 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| **UNERASE** | **COM** | **1537** | **10-14-87** | **8:27a** |
| **WHEREIS** | **COM** | **5798** | **10-14-87** | **8:27a** |
| **XINIT** | COM | 2955 | 10-14-87 | **8:27a** |
| **X32D** | DOS | **12890** | 10-14-87 | 8:27a |
| SPLIT | COM | 4477 | 2-14-88 | **8:59a** |

143 FREE SECTORS

Now to turn the printer off all you have to do at the **D1:** prompt is the **following--**

**EXAMPLE: #3**

**D1:PRINT**

**Remembering that "PRINT P:" turned on the printer now "PRINT" will turn the printer off.**

## The Ol' Hackers 2nd Annual Picnic
by
Carlos Hurtado

-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=

The weather was on our side this time, a little cool, but comfortable. Talk about food, WOW! Too bad Jim Hammargren was not around he would have had a great time, munching his way through the day! I myself, brought enough food to feed all the members in attendance, which by the way were: ALLEN ATKINS, AL BEITCHMAN, JIM EVANS (SYSOP of STARLINK), JACK GEDALIUS, JOSEF LEBER,, and a lot later, ALEX PIGNATO. Oh, let me not forget Andy was also present, can't help hearing him when he's present.! We also had a vistor who crashed the party, a COMMIE computer user, DENIS THE MENACE (actually he was invited by JIM EVANS, who had asked if he could bring his COMMIE friend). Of course wives (of those married were also there, but no girl friends).

We had two grills going with lots of goodies, like Chicken, Franks, and Burgers, makes my mouth water just thinking about it. I had brought along seasoning far the food called "ADOBO with PIMIENTA" made by GOYA and everyone wanted to taste my very spicy and flavorfull food!! Some members brought some sandwiches which were shared with other members. As in all picnics, food was very much in evidence.

The talk at the tables was not all computer talk, it varied from food talk to weather, and where oh where is ALEX when you need him! (He would have helped polish off some of the goodies, so we wouldn't have had to take them home again. Oh yes, he said he would come, and come he did! Guess when? Would you believe at 4:00 PM, he showed up with his wife,, when the last of us to leave, had left at 3:45 PM. Did you have your own private PICNIC ALEX???

All in all we had a very good time and we are all looking forward to the 3rd Annual Picnic next year, and the 2ND annual Dinner sometime in December, at TIFFANY's 418 Bedford Ave., BELLMORE,, L.I. if you missed this one, mark your calendar for the next affair with The Ol' Hackers, see ya there....

## Atarian in Exile

by J.C. Petty US NAVY, SICILY ITALY

OK, now that we have our flowchart, this time we will start converting it into an actual Basic program. This first installment will be the Create routine, plus any necessary intialization and subroutines. I'll use REM statements to try to relate the flowchart to the statements in Basic they're represented by.

Variables:

BNAM$-Bowler's Name and is part of the filename.

DFILS-Data Filename. Composed of Device, BNAMS and a .DAT suffix.

RFIL$-Run Filename. Composed of Device, BNAMS and a .RUN suffix.

ERR-A switch to determine whether an error was encountered in the filename/bowler's name as inputted.

C$-Used to examine one character at a time of FILS. (Later, we will also use it as a Y/N string.)

FILS-A temporary string used to check filename validity.

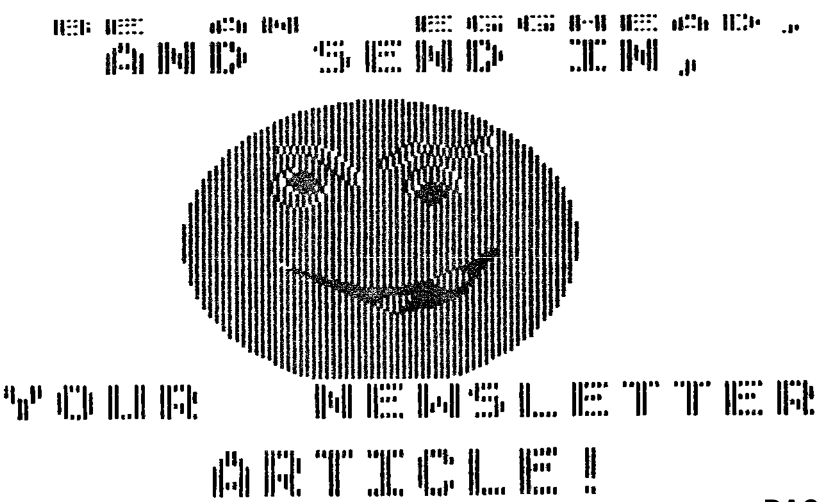
DTGS-A variable to hold the date entered.

```
1 REM WEEKLY BOWLER BY J.C. PETTY, FEB' 89
9 REM INITIALIZE VARIABLES
10 DIM BNAM$(8),DFIL$(15),RFIL$(15)
20 ERR=0:DIM C$(1),FIL$(15),DTG$(9)
99 REM DISPLAY MENU
100 GRAPHICS 18:COLOR 1:REM GRAPHICS 18 SETS UP A DOUBLE-HI/DOUBLE-WIDE FULL SCREEN DISPLAY.
109 REM THE MIXTURE OF UPPER AND LQWEW CASE MAKES A MORE COLORFUL DISPLAY
110 ? #6:? #6;" weekly bowler":? #6:? #6;" Create file":? #6:? #6;" Update file"
120 ? #6:? #6;" Report":? #6:? #6;" End"
129 REM WE WILL OPEN THE KEYBOARD FOR INPUT SO AS NOT TO MESS WITH SCREEN INPUT PROBLEMS
130 DPEN #1,4,0,"K:":GET #1,X:CLOSE #1
140 IF X=ASC("C") THEN 1000
150 IF X=ASC("U") THEN 2000
160 IF X=ASC("R") THEN 3000
170 IF X=ASC("E") THEN 4000
180 CLOSE #1: GOTO 130:REM WE COULD HAVE A BEEP OR SCREEN FLASH OR MESSAGE BETWEEN THE CLOSE AND THE GOTO
199 REM THIS ROUTINE 1ST CHECKS FOR A NON-ALPHABETIC 1ST LETTER, THEN FOR NON-ALPHANUMERIC CHARACTERS
200 FOR I=1 TO LEN(FIL$):C$=FIL$(I,I)
210 IF 1=1 AND (C$<"A" OR C$>"Z") THEN ERR=1
220 IF C$<"0" OR C$>"Z" OR (C$>"9" AND C$<"A") THEN ERR-1
230 NEXT I:RETURN
299 REM THIS ROUTINE SETS UP DATA AND RUNNING FILENAMES FROM THE BOWLER'S NAME INPUTTED
300 DFILB = "D1:":DFIL$(LEN(DFIL$)+1) = BNAM$:RFIL$ = DFIL$:DFIL$(LEN(DFIL$)+1) = ".DAT":RFIL$(LEN(RFIL$)+1) = ".RUN"
310 RETURN
399 REM THIS ROUTINE JUST CLEARS THE SCREEN, EXCEPT FOR THE TOP TITLE
400 FOR I=3 TO 23:POSITION 2,I:? " ":NEXT I
410 POSITION 2,3:RETURN
500 ? "SAY WHAT?!":FOR W=0 TO 250:NEXT W: RETURN
999 REM THIS WILL BE THE 'CREATE' SECTION
1000 GRAPHICS 2: COLOR 1:REM SPLIT SCREEN NOW TO USE TEXT ENTRY AREA
1010 ? #6;" CREATE DB"
1020 ? "BOWLER' S NAME(<=8 CHARS PLEASE)":INPUT BNAM$
1030 FIL$=BNAM$:GOSUB 200: IF ERR=1 THEN ERR=0:GOTO 1020: REM IF AN ERROR IN BOWLER'S NAME, TRY AGAIN
1040 GOSUB 300:REM SETUP FILENAMES TO OPEN
1050 TRAP 9000:OPEN #2,8,0,DFIL$:OPEN #3,8,0,RFIL$:REM THE TRAP IS TAKE CARE OF ANY 1/0 PROBLEMS
1060 ? "FILES ARE OPENED":? "WHAT % OF WHAT SCORE (PC,SC)";:INPUT PC,SC
1070 ? #3;PC:? #3;SC:? #3;0:? #3;0:? #3;0:? #3;0:REM INITIAL RUNNING DATA WITH ZEROES FOR FUTURE VARIABLES
1080 CLOSE #2: CLOSE #3
1090 GOTO 100:REM BACK TQ MAIN MENU
1999 REM THIS BEGINS THE UPDATE SECTION
2000 GRAPHICS 0: SETCOLOR 4,0,0: SETCOLOR 2,0,0:REM STANDARD (BLACK) TEXT SCREEN
2010 ? :? " Weekly Bowler Update":REM I USED INVERSE HERE
2020 ? :? "BOWLER'S NAME (<=8 CHARS PLEASE":INPUT BNAM$
2030 FIL$=BNAM$:GOSUB 200:IF ERR=1 THEN 2000
2040 GOSUB 300: TRAP 9000: OPEN #2,4,0,RFIL$:OPEN #3,9,0,DFILS
2049 REM GET RUNNING TOTALS
2050 INPUT #2; PC: INPUT #2; SC: INPUT #2; NG: INPUT #2; TP: INPUT #2; AV: INPUT #2;HC
2059 REM I USED INVERSE VIDEO FOR PROMPTS. REMEMBER LINE 400 IS THE CLEAR SCREEN ROUTINE
2060 GOSUB 400:? "DATE:";:INPUT DTG$
2070 ? "GAME 1-";:INPUT G1:IF G1>300 THEN GOSUB 500:GOTO 2070
2080 ? "GAME 2-";:INPUT G2:IF G2>300 THEN GOSUB 500:GOTO 2080
2090 ? "GAME 3-";:INPUT G3:IF G3>300 THEN GOSUB 500:GOTO 2090
2099 REM HERE ARE ALL THOSE YUCKY FDRMULAS I MENTIONED
```

```
2100 WT = G1+G2+G3:WA = INT(WT/3):NG =
NG+3:TP = TP+WT:AV = INT(TP/NG):PC =
PC/100:HC = INT((SC-AV)*PC)
2109 REM WE READ THE RUNNING TOTALS,
SO WE CLOSE IT AND OPEN AGAIN TO WRITE
THE NEW ONES
2110 CLOSE #2:OPEN #2,8,0,RFIL$
2120 ? #2,PC*100,SC,NG,TP,AV,HC
2130 ? #3;DTG$:? #3,G1,G2,G3,WT,WA
2140 CLOSE #3:CLOSE #2
2150 GOTO 100:REM BACK TO THE MAIN
MENU
8999 REM THE ERROR TRAPPING ROUTINES
9000 TRAP 40000:CLOSE #2:CLOSE #3:?
"ERROR ";PEEK(195);" AT LINE
";(PEEK(186)+256*PEEK(187))
9010 FOR W=0 TO 500:NEXT W:GOTO
100:REM WAIT, THEN MAIN MENU
```

Next time, we will add **the Report** section, and maybe some small **changes/improvements.** I was glad to hear from ALEX PIGNATO, VICE PRESIDENT WHAT ARE other members doing? If you don't participate, don't criticize! **Til** next time.




## Documentation for The VTOC Fixer!

By Robert Puff

**11/27/88**

Have you ever had files suddenly "go bad" on your hard disk? **Or** perhaps a blank file entry? There are several problems that can **arise** with both floppy and hard disks as time goes by - sometimes because **the** DOS gets corrupted, other times because of user error.

**That's** where the VTOC Fixer comes into play! **It** was designed for MYDOS-formatted hard disks, but can probably work **just** as **well** on any DOS 2 compatible disk.

The VTOC Fixer will go through every file (in every sub-directory) on the specified drive, looking for any possible problems. **It** also re-creates the VTOC table (and free sector count), and at the end verifies its table to the one recorded on the disk. If there are any mismatches, you will be informed, and can write out the corrected VTOC.

**Here** are the things the VTOC Fixer looks for, and will recover:

1.) Any **"bad"** filename: a filename that is not a legal DOS filename. (This includes inverse, control characters, and a space or number as the first character of the name.)

2.) Bad sectors on the disk. A bad sector in the middle of a disk (especially on a hard disk) can cause the DOS will produce an error when you write to the disk, thus making **it** impossible to add any additional files to the drive. Normally the procedure to clear up this problem is to copy all files to another drive, and re-format the disk. But in the case of a large hard disk, this is not always practical. The VTOC Fixer will delete any file containing a bad **sector,** and will mark that sector as being used in the VTOC, so the DOS will never try to access **it again.**

3.) Bad links in a file. The next sector link at the end of every sector

occasionally will reflect a wrong sector number, causing an error 139 upon accessing this file. The VTOC Fixer will delete the file, and free up any sectors allocated to it (even if the file link is in the middle or beginning of the file). This is the "BAD RANGE" error, and occurs when the sector number is less than 4 or greater than the maximum sector on the disk.

4.) Looped files. A corrupted DOS may cause a file to point back to itself, causing an apparent "lockup" whenever the file is deleted or copied. The VTOC Fixer will delete the file, and free up all sectors allocated to it. This is the "LOOP ERR".

5.) Colliding files. A bad VTOC table can cause files to run into each other. Most often, this will produce a "LENGTH ERROR" described below.

However, if the file contains any sectors that have been previously used by VTOC, directory, or other file data, it will produce a "COLLISION" error. The file will be deleted, and all non-colliding sectors will be freed.

6.) Bad length files. This is the most frequent error you will probably *see.* When two files collide with each other, the original file's data is replaced with the new file. Due to the nature of sector linking, reading the first file will eventually end up in reading part (or all) of the second file. This will cause a "BAD LENGTH" error, which means the sector length as is listed in the directory is not the same length as the file. The first (original file) will produce this error; the second file will be fine. The VTOC Fixer will delete the (first) file, and de-allocate any sectors not belonging to the second file.

7.) Bad varsiens of DOS. Any version of MYBOS prior to 4.50 contained a bug dealing with formatting large capacity disks (hard disks). When you entered the sector count, it did not always store the number you entered correctly. This gave false free sector counts, generally +/- 200 sectors from what .it should have been. The VTOC Fixer first determines exactly how many sectors are on the disk, then bases its calculations on this number. This is listed in the "Init. free secs correction" given at the end sf the processing.

8.) Ignores old VTOC table. The VTQC Fixer generates its own VTOC; it never reads the one on your disk except for comparison. So if only the VTOC was blown away for some reason, you will not lose anything.

How to use The VTQC Fixer:

Load VTOCFIX.COM from your DOS menu as a binary file. Now type the drive number you wish to fix, or press RETURN to go back to DOS. The drive should NOT be write protected.

The prompt "Verify files to delete?" will appear. Answering "Y" to this (which is recommended) will cause the program to prompt you before it deletes or writes anything to your disk. (For example, if it wants to delete a file you really want to keep - but remember, the file probably is bad.) Otherwise, pressing "N" or RETURN will cause the VTOC Fixer to correct any errors automatically, without user intervention.

The program will now attempt to calculate the total number of sectors an that drive total. (This applies mostly to hard disk users, but is applicable for any type of floppy drive.) If the number returned does not look good, you may change it by answering "N", and typing in your awn value. The VTOC Fixer will attempt to read this sector to insure this value is correct. If it cannot, you will be prompted for another value. Try a number 1 less than before, and keep decreasing till it accepts the number. On SUPRA 20 meg hard disks, contrary to what they say, you have 36799 sectors far drives 3 and 4 (one less than the 36800).

In the future, keep this number (the maximum sector number) in an important place, so when you reconfigure new versions of MYDOS, you can use the correct value.

Now the program will begin the long, drawn-out process of going through every file. It lists the entire filename of the file it is processing, in directory-style (no period between name and extender). If your screen goes into attract mode, simply hit SHIFT CONTROL A.

These are the following errors that may occur in a file:

COLLISION - the file has a sector that has already been used by another file, VTOC, or directory.

BAD LENGTH - The directory length does not compare to the actual file length: probably a result of a collision.

LOOP ERR - the file "loops" back to itself.

BAD RANGE - The sector link points to a sector less than 4 or greater than what is available on the disk.

Err #144 @ Sec #xxx - A bad sector on your disk.

INVALID FILENAME:xxx - an illegal filename (bad bytes).

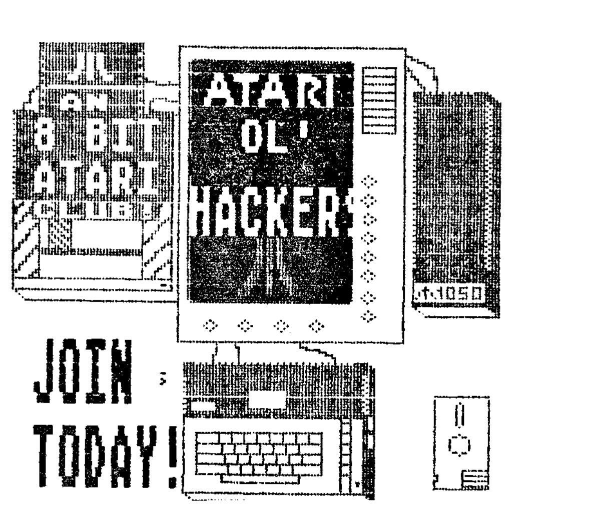
Any bad files SHOULD be deleted by this program. If they are not, they will be overwritten by files written TO the disk in the future.

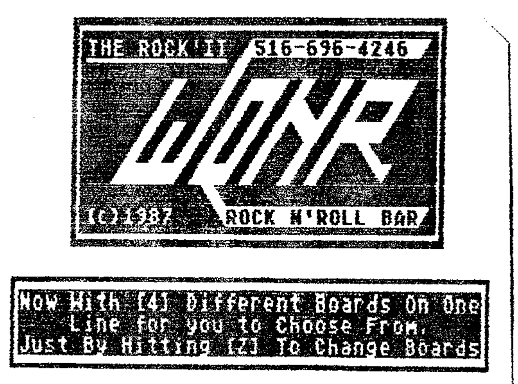
At the end, the VTOC Fixer will display the number of sectors used in files (not really that meaningful), the number of sectors that are now free (the newly-generated free sector count), the old free sector count (so you can see the difference if any), and the initial free sector correction (caused by an incorrect format to begin with). If your VTOC and free sector count agree with the value the program calculated, it will be displayed. Otherwise, it will ask you if you wish to write aut the new VTOC. You SHOULD answer "Y" to this question, which will correct the errors. If for any reason you do not want this, type "N" or RETURN.

And that's it! This program in essence takes the place of copying all files to another disk, formatting the original, and copying the files back. Run this whenever you think a drive might not be set-up right, or have a bad free sector count. You cannot hurt the drive by running this - it can only help! It hasreally helped me, and saved alot of hard disks here.

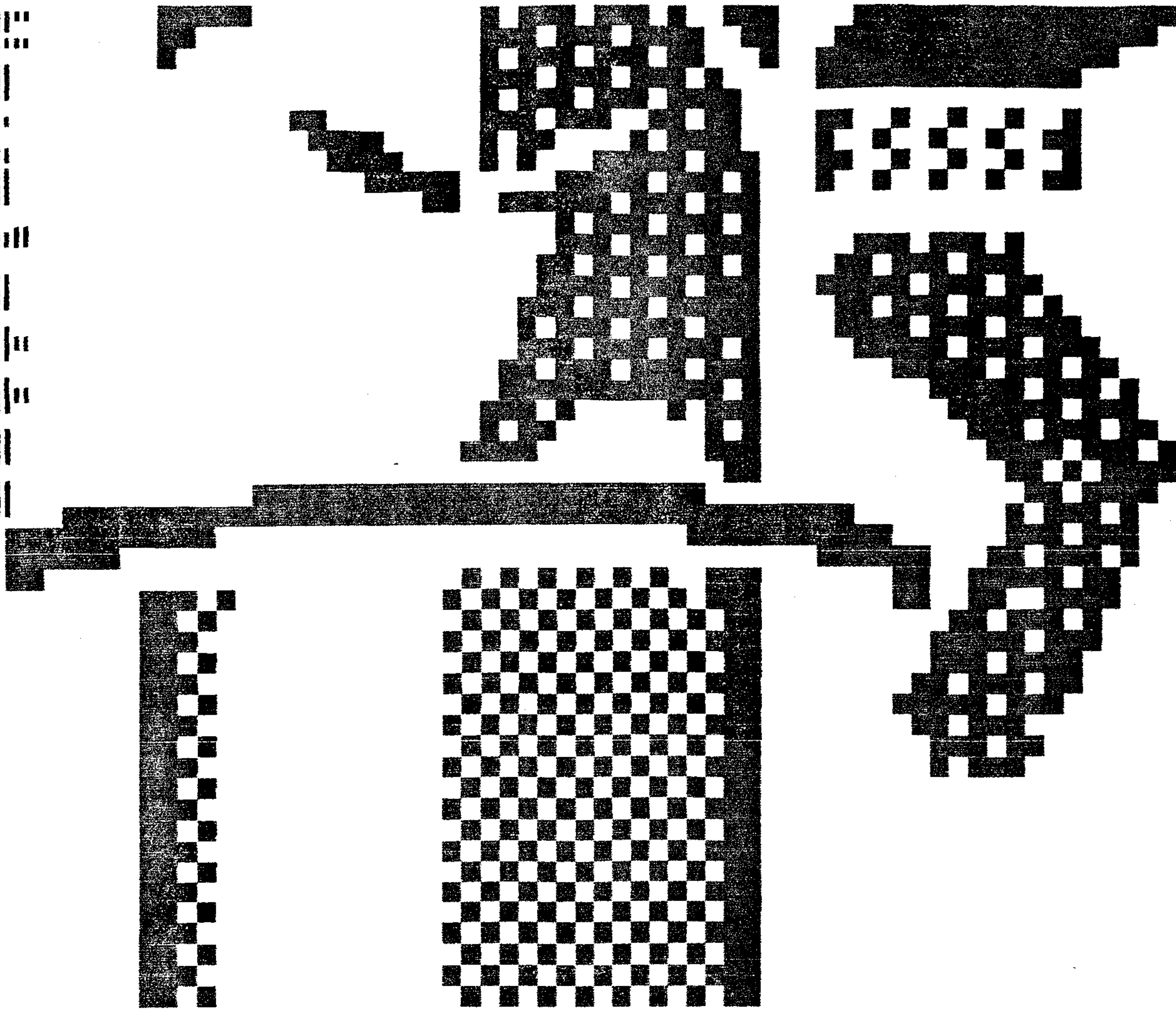
Enjoy! If you have any further questions, comments, or want to send a donation to encourage me to continue bring quality software into the public domain, please feel free to write.


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Newsletter



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